

Public Health Committee
Corey Kwiecienski
12 March 2010

H. B. No. 5450 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY FOR SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Good morning Senator Harris, Representative Ritter, members of the committee. My name is Corey Kwiecienski. I am a Master in Social Work intern currently working at the Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition.

I am a member of the Healthy Teens Coalition who supports the legislation for expedited partner therapy. According to the Center for Disease Control, one in four teen girls are infected with a sexually transmitted infection in the United States. The CDC supports this legislation as does the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

While patient referrals are the most widely used and least costly, they are also the least effective in fighting sexually transmitted infections. Expedited partner therapy is designed for those individuals who are unlikely to seek medical treatment on their own or are otherwise unable to receive treatment. There are incidences in which patients will share their prescriptions with their partners. The issue with this is that neither of them are receiving the proper treatment. Information and treatment is essential to combat the infection rates. Patients and their partners must be aware that reinfection can and does occur if BOTH partners are not treated correctly.

Following the diagnosis of a treatable sexually transmitted infection, the individual would be given information and treatment for their partner. This would dramatically reduce the reinfection that commonly occurs within 3-6 months when their partner is left untreated.

72% (8,285) of reported Chlamydia cases in CT in 2007 were among young people aged 10-24. Left untreated, Chlamydia is a major contributor to infertility later in life. 57% (1,329) of reported Gonorrhea cases in CT in 2007 were among young people aged 10-24. With the legislation in place, these numbers could be reduced. Recently, we've seen an increase in syphilis cases among men who have sex with men. In 2009, 105 cases of syphilis were reported in CT; 85% of which were among men who have sex with men. Thirty-two percent of these individuals were co-infected with HIV.

Expedited partner therapy is a way to interrupt the chain of transmission and prevent reinfection after treatment. I urge you to support this legislation.

I would like to thank you for your time and the opportunity to be heard.

Corey Kwiecienski